

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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TAGS:OEXC, RO, US (POPESCU, DUMITRU)

SUBJECT:VISIT OF DUMITRU POPESCU

1. IN POPESCU CALL ON USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH JUNE 11, WE RAISED QUESTION OF DEADLINES FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. CU/EE DIRECTOR, NOTING OUR SATISFACTION WITH GENERAL PROGRESS OF US-ROMANIAN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES, ASKED POPESCU'S ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THREE LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS: (A) ROMANIAN TARDINESS IN SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS; (B) LATE ARRIVALS OF ROMANIAN SCHOLARS IN US; AND (C) LATE ROMANIAN ACCEPTANCE OF US STUDENT NOMINATIONS. IN REPLY TO LATTER POINT POPESCU ASKED WHEN US STUDENT NOMINATIONS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED. WE DID NOT HAVE EXACT DATE OF TRANSMISSION THESE NOMINATIONS TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BY EMBASSY, BUT REPLIED "MARCH-APRIL". POPESCU AGREED TO LOOK INTO THESE ISSUES ON RETURN BUCHAREST.

2. POPESCU RAISED QUESTION OF ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN IOWA INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM. WHILE HE DID NOT MENTION FAILURE OF PETRU POPESCU TO RETURN TO ROMANIA, IT
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WAS APPARENT THAT ROMANIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO NOMINATE AGAIN FOR THIS PROGRAM. POPESCU SAID THE SIX TO NINE MONTH LENGTH OF PROGRAM SEPARATED WRITERS FROM THEIR FAMILIES FOR LENGTHY PERIOD. HE ALSO MENTIONED DIFFICULTY

OF ROMANIANS IN COPING WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AND FACT
THAT PARTICIPANTS MET WITH OTHER FOREIGN WRITERS RATHER
THAN BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH US WRITERS AND US CULTURE.
AS ALTERNATIVE HE ASKED IF WE COULD ACCEPT SMALL DELEGA-
TIONS OF ROMANIAN CULTURAL SPECIALISTS FOR TWO TO THREE
WEEKS INTENSIVE VISITS TO US. IN REPLY WE NOTED THAT
IOWA PROGRAM HAD BEEN REDUCED TO FIVE MONTHS AND WE
EXPRESSED OUR HOPE FOR CONTINUED ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION.
RE DLEGATIONS, WE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT THEM BUT
ARGUED THAT FOUR WEEKS IS MINIMUM PERIOD FOR ADEQUATELY
SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING A LARGE COUNTRY SUCH AS THE US.
POPESCU NOTED THAT ROMANIA SENDS SUCH DELEGATIONS TO
SOVIET UNION, ALSO A LARGE COUNTRY, FOR TWO WEEKS. WE

INFORMALLY SETTLED ON THREE WEEKS AS COMPROMISE.

3. USIA MEMCON BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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